

INTRODUCTION

The superintendent of the Michigan Children's Institute (MCI) represents the state as guardian of state wards beginning with the date of the child's commitment and continuing until the age of 19 (MCL 400.203). The MCI superintendent is authorized to consent to adoption, juvenile guardianship, medical procedures, marriage, or emancipation (MCL 400.209 and 712A.19c). The MCI superintendent may appoint a designee to consent to adoption, juvenile guardianship, marriage, or emancipation of a child who is an MCI ward.

County directors who have received written delegation from the MCI superintendent may consent to adoption when the case meets the criteria in; ADM 0850, Expedited Consent. Consent packets meeting this criteria should be sent to the respective county child welfare director or county director for the county which had jurisdiction of the child in the child abuse and neglect proceeding.

MEDICAL CARE

The superintendent is authorized to consent to elective medical care for an MCI ward if the procedure requires the approval of a guardian. These procedures include:

- Elective surgical procedures.
- Administration of anesthesia.
- Consent to abortion.
- Decisions to limit, restrict or terminate medical care.

Policy and procedure details for Medical Care for MCI wards are found in FOM 801, Health Services for Foster Children.

Routine Medical Care

Routine medical care must be monitored and approved by the child-placing agency that is responsible for case management services. (See FOM 801, Health Services for Foster Children)

**Authorization for
Psychotropic
Medication and
Informed Consent**

See FOM 802-1, Psychotropic Medication in Foster Care for specific policies regarding psychotropic medications and Informed Consent.

**PUBLIC USE OF
PHOTOGRAPHS
AND MEDIA
INTERVIEWS OF MCI
WARDS**

Media interviews of children and release of photographs for children who are MCI wards must be approved by the MCI superintendent. The MCI superintendent has authorized the use of interviews and the release of photographs of MCI wards for child specific adoption recruitment purposes without prior approval **only** when the child has been consulted, is in agreement, and has signed the "Let's Talk" booklet; see ADM 0400. See FOM 722-11, Foster Care - Delegation of Parental Consent, for further information.

CONSULTATION**Consultation With
the Attorney for
the Child**

MCL 400.204 provides that an attorney for a child who has been committed to the Michigan Children's Institute (MCI) and the MCI superintendent may communicate with each other regarding issues of commitment, placement and permanency planning. In addition, if the child's attorney has an objection or concern regarding such an issue, the superintendent and the child's attorney shall communicate with each other.

**Consultation with
Child Placing
Agencies**

Child placing agencies engaged in permanency planning for MCI wards may consult with the MCI office at any time to discuss issues related to permanency planning decisions or services for MCI

wards. Workers should consult with their supervisor prior to contacting the MCI office. A plan that involves separating siblings or removing a child from a foster or relative home interested in adoption when there is no imminent risk of harm **must** be discussed with the MCI office prior to any replacement; see FOM 722-3, Foster Care - Placement/Replacement.

Other Inquiries

Letters and telephone calls received by the MCI office from foster and adoptive parents, attorneys and other interested parties are reviewed and responded to as appropriate. Information submitted that pertains to specific cases is retained by the MCI office for future reference.

Foster Care Review Board Appeals for MCI Wards

MCL 712A.13b permits foster parents to appeal a proposed change of foster home placement of an MCI ward to the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB). The FCRB must investigate the proposed change of placement and must report the findings and recommendations to the MCI superintendent for MCI wards.

If the FCRB does not support the change of placement, the MCI superintendent must make a decision regarding the child's placement within 14 days and must inform each interested party; see FOM 722-3, Foster Care - Placement/Replacement.

DISCHARGE CRITERIA FOR STATE WARDS (ACT 220 OR ACT 296)

See FOM 722-15, Foster Care - Case Closing, for specific policies regarding early discharge for MCI wards.

RESTORATION OF CUSTODY TO PARENT

See FOM 722-15, Foster Care - Case Closing, for specific policies regarding placement of an MCI ward back into the care of his/her parent(s).

**AUTHORIZATION
FOR MARRIAGE
AND MILITARY**

See FOM 722-11, Foster Care - Delegation of Parent Consent, for specific policies regarding MCI superintendent authorization for marriage and entry of an MCI ward into the military.